

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR.

27 October 1955

SUBJECT

Activities of the Tank Regiments of the 12th Guards Tank Division in Neuruppin

NO. OF PAGES

2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Between 1 and 23 September 1955, the following observations were made in the Fridericus Kaserne (2205) in Neuruppin:
A total of about 70 T-54 tanks were stored in the 4 tank sheds of Unit Dronov. The 4 tank sheds of Unit Kovalenko also quartered a total of some 70 T-54s, while some 30 T-54 tanks, 12 JS-1 tanks and 13 JSU-122 guns were seen in the 4 sheds of Unit Kusmenkov, formerly Unit Mitrofanov. Supply officer Mitrofanov had been succeeded by Kusmenkov, who was previously assigned to the unit at the former Wulokow Estate (2500). A total of approximately 75 T-54 tanks were seen in the tanks sheds of Unit Buikovski. ¹
2. Behind the turret of the T-54 tanks was a wire lattice, which was removed from the outside by a soldier. After the lattice had been removed, the cylinder block rose from below without any support from outside. After three soldiers had worked on the motor for a short time, a Crane truck removed the motorblock and replaced it by another motor which, after a few manipulations, disappeared in the hole which was subsequently covered with the wire lattice. The lattice was about 1 x 1.5 meters large. The exchange of the motor took between 45 and 60 minutes. The tracks of the tanks were exactly 60 cm wide (measured with a folding rule). ²
3. The sheds of Unit Buikovski quartered 2 track-laying vehicles which were described as follows:
The vehicles were less wider and longer and 50 to 80 cm lower than T-54 tanks. They had 6 bogie wheels, 1 drive wheel, 1 guide wheel and a track, about 35 cm wide, without track - supporting rollers. The hull resembled that of an amphibious vehicle. The hull rear plate and the lower front plate slanted in an angle of about 50°. In about the middle of the hull roof plate, which appeared to be even, was a turret similar to that of a T-54 tank. A gun of 50 to 60 mm projected from the turret. The barrel of the gun was fitted with a rather strong jacket about half of its length. ³

1. ☐ Comment. The supply officers mentioned belong to the following units:

Unit Dronov	49th Gds Tank Regt
Unit Kovalenko	66th Gds Tank Regt
Unit Buikovski	48th Gds Tank Regt
Unit Kusmenkov	71st Gds Hv Tank SP Regt

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CLASSIFICATION ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

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It is noted that no T-34 tanks were observed with the division. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted]. It can 25X1
 therefore be assumed that, after the arrival of some 340 T-34 tanks, surplus
 T-34 tanks were stored. Only a few old tanks had been transferred to other
 units in the zone. On the basis of the tank types and numbers mentioned
 in the present report, the tank regiments might be organized as follows:
 Medium Tank Regt: 2 battalions, each with 35 tanks, plus 2 regimental tanks;
 total 72 tanks;
 Hv Tanks SP Regt: 1 battalion with 35 T-54 tanks, 1 battalion with heavy tanks
 and 1 battalion with SP guns.
 The total number of new tanks indicates, however, that this organization cannot
 be a final one. It is possible that a third battalion is planned (or has
 already been activated) for each medium tank regiment, while the previous
 Hv Tank SP Regt may be organized into 2 medium tank battalions and 2
 battalion with heavy tanks and SP guns. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. The short time needed for the exchange of the motorblock tends
 to indicate that this type of tank can again be ready for employment within
 short time, even when major repair work is necessary.

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3. [redacted] Comment. This may be a new type of amphibious tank. Vague indications
 of the existence of this type of tank were also reported from Doberitz and
 Leipzig. In mid-July, [redacted] 18 amphibious tanks
 practiced firing on Lake Dranse at the Wittstock training grounds. [redacted]

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References

**SUPPLEMENT TO
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East Germany

SUBJECT

Activities of the Tank Regiments of the 12th Guards Tank Division in Courland

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DATE OF INFO.

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1. Between 1 and 23 September 1955, the following observations were made in the Fridericus-Faserne (2205) in Neuruppin:
A total of about 70 T-54 tanks were stored in the 4 tank sheds of Unit Bronov. The 4 tank sheds of Unit Kovalenko also quartered a total of some 70 T-54s, while some 30 T-54 tanks, 12 JS-1 tanks and 13 JSU-122 ~~units~~ were seen in the 4 sheds of Unit Yurgenkov, formerly Unit Mitrofanov. ~~Staff~~ officer Mitrofanov had been succeeded by Kurenkov, who was previously assigned to the unit at the former Wulokow Estate (2500). A total of approximately 75 T-54 tanks were seen in the ~~tanks~~ sheds of Unit Puikovski. 1
2. Behind the turret of the T-54 tanks was a wire lattice, which was moved from the outside by a soldier. After the lattice had been removed, the cylinder block rose from below without any support from outside. After three soldiers had worked on the rotor for a short time, a crane truck removed the rotor block and replaced it by another rotor which, after a few manipulations, disappeared in the hole which was subsequently covered with the wire lattice. The lattice was about 1 x 1.5 meters large. The exchange of the rotor took between 45 and 60 minutes. The tracks of the tanks were exactly 60 cm wide (measured with a folding rule). 2
3. The sheds of Unit Puikovski quartered 2 track laying vehicles which were described as follows:
The vehicles were less wide and longer and 50 to 80 cm lower than T-54 tanks. They had 6 bogie wheels, 1 drive wheel, 1 guide wheel and a track, about 35 cm wide, without track-supporting rollers. The hull resembled that of an amphibious vehicle. The hull rear plate and the lower front plate slanted in an angle of about 50°. In about the middle of the hull roof plate, which appeared to be even, was a turret similar to that of a T-54 tank. A gun of 50 to 60 mm projected from the turret. The barrel of the gun was fitted with a rather strong jacket about half of its length. 3

1. Comment. The supply officers mentioned belong to the following units:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Unit Dronov | 4 th Gds Tank Regt |
| Unit Kovalenko | 66 th Gds Tank Regt |
| Unit Bulkovski | 48 th Gds Tank Regt |
| Unit Kusmenkov
(Mitrofenov) | 71 st Gds Hv Tank SP Regt |

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It is noted that no T-34 tanks were observed with the division. [redacted]

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therefore be assumed that, after the arrival of some 140 T-34 tanks, surplus T-34 tanks were stored. Only a few old tanks had been transferred to other units in the zone. On the basis of the tank types and numbers mentioned in the present report, the tank regiments might be organized as follows:
Medium Tank Regt: 2 battalions, each with 35 tanks, plus 2 regimental tanks;
total 72 tanks;

Hv Tanks SP Regt: 1 battalion with 35 T-54 tanks, 1 battalion with heavy tanks and 1 battalion with SP guns.

The total number of new tanks indicates, however, that this organization cannot be a final one. It is possible that a third battalion is planned (or has already been activated) for each medium tank regiment, while the previous Hv Tank SP Regt may be organized into 2 medium tank battalions and 1 battalion with heavy tanks and SP guns. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. The short time needed for the exchange of the motorblock tends to indicate that this type of tank can again be ready for employment within short time, even when major repair work is necessary.

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3. [redacted] Comment. This may be a new type of amphibious tank. Vague indications of the existence of this type of tank were also reported from East Berlin and Leipzig. In mid-July, 18 amphibious tanks practiced firing on Lake Dranse at the Wittstock training grounds. [redacted]

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